

ownership it would be necessary to carry the entire country for the proposition before a start could be made. Then, too, state ownership avoids another difficulty. One system proposed for the purchase or condemnation of the roads would be more satisfactory in one section while another system would be more satisfactory in another section. Under state ownership each state could adopt its own plan and satisfy its own people.

Since the editorial on state ownership appeared the editor has learned that Germany has now the system of state ownership. Judge Van Wagenen of Sioux City, Ia., secured from the American consul at Frankfort, Germany, the information given below. The questions and answers show that the empire only owns 798 miles of the mileage, the rest being owned by the various German states:

Q. Are the railroads owned by the imperial government or are they owned by both?

A. They are owned by the various German states, a federal government and private parties.

Q. How many miles owned by the imperial government?

A. 798 miles.

Q. How many miles owned by Prussia?

A. 16,075 miles.

Q. How many by Alsace Loraine?

A. 798 miles. (This is a German federal road.)

Q. Is government ownership popular with the people?

A. They appear not to discuss this question and seem to be well satisfied with the existing conditions, that is practically government ownership.

Q. How many miles owned by private parties in all Germany?

A. 2573 miles.

The total mileage of all railroads owned by the various German governments was 28,601 miles at the end of the year 1900.

In arriving at the mileage I figure one kilometer equal to five-eighths of a mile. The following shows the number of kilometers:

Owned by.	Kilometers.
Bavaria	5,750.9
Saxony	2,442.4
Wurtemberg	1,594.1
Baden	1,612.9
Hesse	1,130.1
Mechlenburg-schwerin	1,163.3
Saxe-weimar	312.6
Mechlenburg-strelitz	160.1
Oldenburg	521.7
Brunswick	402.4
Saxe-meiningen	250.7
Anhalt	268.9
Saxe-altenburg	164.3
Saxe-coburg and Gotha	281
Schwartzburg-Sanderhausen	75.4
Schwartzburg-rud	106.1
Waldeck	39.3
Reuss Sr.	43.3
Reuss Jr.	62.5
Schaumburg-Lippe	24.3
Lippe	83.5
Lubeck	10.7
Bremen	51.2
Hamburg	40.3

It may be added that there are several international trains in Europe, running through several countries. It would be as easy to provide for interstate commerce over state railroads as it is now to provide for through freight and passenger trains over different lines.

"Shackling" Force

Before he had succeeded to the presidency, and while he was vice president, Mr. Roosevelt delivered a speech at Minneapolis. In its issue of September 4, 1901, the Kansas City Star printed an editorial from which editorial the following extract is taken:

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend," said Solomon, the wise man of old. Under this head may be classed the utterances of Theodore Roosevelt in his address at Minneapolis on Labor Day. Standing out strong and clear among all of the declarations which have been made on the subject of trusts are the following sentiments by the vice president: "We shall find it necessary in the future to shackle cunning, as in the past we have shackled force."

"The vast individual and corporate fortunes, the vast combinations of capital which

have marked the development of our industrial system create new conditions and necessitate a change from the old attitude of the state and the nation toward property."

These are direct and pointed sentiments inspired by conditions to which no thoughtful and sober-minded man can be blind. They are not uttered in any spirit of intemperate agitation or with any purpose to excite false alarm for political purposes. They come from an influential member of the party which capital in modern years has regarded as its chosen champion. They do not proceed from a person who has excited the suspicion of the conservative element by the radical character of his opinions.

In admonishing the large capitalists of their duty Mr. Roosevelt is speaking to persons with whom he has been intimately associated. He is prominently identified with the social and political life of the richest community in America. He is a New Yorker by heredity. He is known and esteemed by the so-called money kings. He could have no possible motive in wishing to overthrow a fabric which would bring destruction to those who are of the same political household of faith with himself.

Mr. Roosevelt speaks as a friend to the rich men who are rapidly gaining control of the industries and the commerce of the nation. Will it not be infinitely wiser for them to hear him and heed him and follow his counsel than to persist in their scheme of self-aggrandizement at the certain risk of inviting a violent and implacable conflict with avowed enemies, who have none of the regard for the rights of capital which Mr. Roosevelt has always shown?

The trust magnates heard Mr. Roosevelt, but they did not heed him; and under the administration of the man who at Minneapolis declared "we shall find it necessary in the future to shackle cunning as in the past we have shackled force," these men have persisted in their scheme of self-aggrandizement.

Trust Profits.

An interesting article is printed by the New York American, showing how the trusts use the tariff to protect labor. In this article, significant facts relating to the recent cut in wages by the steel trust are presented as follows:

Amount of wages paid by steel trust in two years, exclusive of high officials' salaries..	\$225,000,000
Profits of steel trust applicable to capital in two years.....	255,000,000
Profits	111 per cent of wage cost
Percentage of profits to wage cost before the organization of the steel trust	10 per cent
The enormous profits made by combining advantages with wage cutting is shown as follows:	
Total wage cost of producing 100 tons of plates	\$27.42
Difference between tariff duty on slabs and duty on plates.....	\$6.72 a ton
Labor cost of converting a ton of slabs into a ton of plates.....	27 cents
Tariff to protect 27 cents worth of labor	\$6.72
Total wage cut.....	from \$42.17 to \$27.42 a ton.

The manner in which wages have been affected by the steel trust is disclosed by this showing:

Total number of men employed in the steel industry of the country.....	350,000
Received in wages last year.....	\$250,000,000
The average reduction in wages to date	60,000,000
Families affected	300,000
Persons affected	1,500,000
Increase in the cost of living.....	35 per cent
The stock watering secrets are revealed—	
Capital stock of steel trust.....	\$1,477,239,051
Actual value of prop. of steel trust.	808,328,646
Total of watered stock.....	668,910,412
To pay dividends upon nearly seven hundred million dollars represented by nothing but the rapacity of the organizers of the steel trust, it has become necessary to scale the wages of all steel workers to the lowest possible point.	

Popular Election of Senators.

Among the planks inserted in the democratic national platform without opposition was the one endorsing the election of senators by popular vote. This reform has been growing for a third of a

century. A resolution proposing the amendment has four times passed the house of representatives and four times has been ignored by the senate. In 1900 the democrats for the first time endorsed it in a national platform and now it is endorsed for a second time. With a president earnestly in favor of this reform, as the democratic candidate doubtless is, it would be easy to secure the submission of the necessary amendment and this reform would be the gateway to other reforms. If Judge Parker did nothing more than secure this great and needed constitutional change he would justify his election.

Municipal Ownership in Missouri.

The press dispatches report that Columbia, Missouri, has taken over at an agreed price the plant of the Columbia Water and Light company and will hereafter operate it as a municipal plant. The members of the faculty of the state university located at Columbia, are credited with this victory for municipal ownership. The trend of public opinion is all in favor of municipal ownership.

An Educational Campaign.

Do you prefer railroad ownership of the public to public ownership to the railroads?

Do you believe that those people least able to bear the burden should be the heaviest taxed, while those who have the most should be exempt from taxation? or are you in favor of an income tax?

Do you believe that federal judges should be appointed for life, thus making them indifferent to public opinions? Or are you in favor of a plan whereby the people may select federal judges to serve for a limited period?

Do you believe that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable?

Do you favor municipal ownership of public utilities?

The American people are beginning a great educational campaign, and The Commoner hopes to play an important part in this work. It will advocate state ownership of railroads, federal ownership of telegraph system, municipal ownership of public utilities, an income tax, the election of federal judges by the people, the election of United States senators by popular vote, direct legislation, the overthrow of private monopolies, and the election of postmasters by the people whom they are to serve.

Those who agree with The Commoner on these lines may find in the special subscription offer an opportunity to help in this educational campaign. The increase in the circulation of The Commoner means the widening of its sphere of influence.

The attention of those who are willing to assist in this work is directed to The Commoner's special subscription offer.

According to the terms of this offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering the cards may sell them for \$1.00 each, thus earning a commission of \$2.00 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER		
Application for Subscription Cards		
5	I, Publisher Commoner, I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.	
10		
15		
20		
25		
50		
75		
100		
Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.		
If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.		